

Dear Representative: I was a huge supporter of candidate Obama. Candidate Obama promised to finally end the inequalities of our healthcare system.

In the meantime, my partner has had a series of health issues.

As a student getting federal student aid, my partner has no health insurance because we cannot afford it since he is not working.

We are finding now that credit is drying up, bills are piling up, and we have thousands of dollars of medical bills.

I have a good job, but even with it, we are finding it nearly impossible to pay all the bills.

I am afraid that healthcare will pass with no public option, leaving me and my partner behind.

Then if there is a mandate for healthcare without a public option, how will we be able to afford private health insurance?

Married couples will get a spouse benefit, but we are gay.

Our relationship is not recognized under DOMA or by most States.

If we have our past medical bills, plus the added cost of mandated expensive private insurance from a Health insurance monopoly, we will surely enter bankruptcy.

This is not what I wanted when I worked so hard to get Obama elected.

I, and I assume many others, cannot afford to pay more.

Please demand a less expensive public option, or else there will be even more foreclosures and credit card defaults.

Obama seems to be caving to the demands of a gun toting gang of thugs.

Please demand he be stronger against the attacks and not cave in to a minority that will never support a him as President.

Thank You,

Aaron

Indianapolis
, IN

Dear Rep. Carson: My health care story is that I am happy with the my own health care situation, as are the great majority of all Americans according to the polls on the subject.

I think it's noble to attempt to provide insurance for all those uninsured out there....and I would like to see some creative ways to make that happen...but I say NO to the "public option"...this is simply a precursor to a single payer system along the lines of Canada and Great Britain.

I'm very tired of people making this an argument between those who "want reform" and those who are supposedly "stuck on the status quo".

There are a lot of options for improving our already great health care system other than an UNAFFORDABLE government insurance option to provide ""free" healthcare for the uninsured.

I haven't heard anyone answer the question of how we will realistically PAY for this.

From what I can gather, there are a couple primary goals to health care reform; coverage for the uninsured and control of health care costs.

I prefer the ideas that utilize and maintain our free market system and avoid the continued growth of government's role in our lives.

Targeted measures such as insurance portability, removal of restrictions on insurance across state lines, tax credits for individuals who purchase insurance outside of their employer, and especially tort reform to reduce wasteful testing to avoid frivolous lawsuits.

Lastly, I am VERY UNCOMFORTABLE with the seeming rush that this legislation is under.

Similar to the TARP fund and the stimulus package, which have proven to be less than effective, creation of a false urgency to try to ramrod an ill-conceived plan puts up huge red flags for me.

John

Indianapolis
, IN

Dear Congressman Carson, Even though I presently have adequate health care coverage, I feel very vulnerable. How many of us are on the precipice of losing health insurance due to a job loss or other extenuating circumstances?

In my case, I have coverage through my husband.

He is over 65 but still working.

I won't be 65 for 5 years.

I'm presently unemployed so unless I can find a job with insurance, my husband feels compelled to continue to work until he's over 70, for my sake.

I'm sure that I'd be denied private insurance due to "pre-existing conditions" although I have no major health problems.

From what I understand, something as simple as having a history of headaches disqualifies you from being insured.

Would you hazard a guess as to how many 60 year olds would have absolutely no prior health issue that might place them in the "uninsurable" category?

I also worry about the future of my children.

My 28 year old son had a brain tumor removed when he was very young and is left with a seizure disorder that requires medication and regular checkups.

What happens to him if he loses his job?

Perhaps he'd like to further his career and move on to a better job, but how does he do that without losing his health care coverage?

He can't take it with him and many employers can't afford to cover him.

He would most certainly be denied coverage by private insurance companies.

I guess the motivating factor for employees like him these days has to be based on health insurance, not on moving forward with career goals and living the American dream.

My elderly parents have been well-served by Medicare and I'm actually looking forward to having it so that my husband can retire. Now that's pretty sad, isn't it – wishing away 5 years of my life so that I can feel confident about being taken care of should I become ill?

Do people realize that Medicare is run by the government?

How many people on Medicare would be willing to give it up because of that?

The bottom line is this.

We've had private for-profit insurance companies dictating our health care for all these years.

How is that working out for over 47 million uninsured Americans?

In my opinion, the driving force behind this debate is one based on common humanity.

The richest country in the world should be willing to assume some responsibility for insuring the healthcare of all its citizens.

How can it be okay to continue to fund unnecessary wars at the cost of billions of dollars but not this?

Sincerely,

Marcia

Indianapolis
, IN

Congressman Carson, As someone who had a history of childhood asthma, I found it very difficult after graduating from college to find quality, affordable healthcare coverage. I appreciate your efforts to remedy this and appreciate the opportunity to share my frustrations with our national healthcare system. I hope others will join this forum. It's a calm and rational way to continue an important dialogue. Best, Tim Indianapolis, IN

Dear Andre: I and my family support a strong public option. I am on the brink of not having insurance for myself.

I hold a private policy, I can barely afford.

My children's' policy will rise to \$421 in September, making the total amount of premiums, \$1203 per month.

This policy does NOT cover dental, nor vision, nor anything preventive based.

I have not seen a dentist since 2005, when my Cobra ended.

I am sending my girls.

They both go to the eye doctor.

The last time I had my eyes checked was in 2006, because I was part of a study at IU.

My doctor nags me, but between trying to pay premiums out of my retirement, I am just trying to survive.

We both know that for every 5 dollars, one dollar is spent on health.

We don't have to worry about rationed care, because it already is.

Health, without some real reform, will become an issue of the haves and have nots.

Those who are independently wealthy enough will have, and the rest of us plebeians will not.

During the great depression, Congress worked with President Roosevelt to create policy change that benefits everyone today, like social security.

Health is a huge gaping wound that is begging to be addressed.

Sincerely,

Debbie

Indianapolis
, IN